Kayankulam—Nangiyarkulangara road.

10. **Mr. K. M. Kesavan** (*Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether Kayankulam-Nangiyarkulangara road has long been gravelled;

(*b*) whether that road is not a short-cut on the Quilon—Alleppey line;

(*c*) whether it traverses places as populous as or more populous than the places through which Kayankulam—Thattarampalam route runs; and

(*d*) if so, when will they be pleased to allow the line buses to run through the Kayankulam—Nangiyarkulangara road?

Mr. S. Sesha Aiyar: (*a*) Gravelled about 4 years ago.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) When the road is made quite fit for regular motor traffic after acquiring the necessary lands.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Sir, in the answer to part (*a*) of the question it is said that the road has been gravelled four years ago. I do not understand why more lands should be acquired for a road to make it quite fit for regular motor traffic after it has been gravelled four years ago.

Mr. S. Sesha Aiyar: Sir, the road as originally existed or as exists now is narrow and the gravelling was done on the portion available. It is now proposed to widen the road by acquiring more lands and it is only after widening the road that it can be made fit for heavy motor traffic.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Would it not have been wiser and cheaper to widen the road first and then gravel it?

Mr. S. Sesha Aiyar: Sir, the gravelling that was done has not been a loss, because vehicles are now going along that road. It is only the heavy bus traffic that is not allowed on that road as it is very narrow. The road, as it is, is serving the public.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: May I know whether it is to ease the curves that the acquisition of more lands has become necessary?

Mr. S. Sesha Aiyar: That is one of the reasons.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Will the member give any more reasons for the acquisition of land after the gravelling was done?

Mr. S. Sesha Aiyar: Straightening the curved portions of the road, by deviating the road.

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